

U.S. Serial No. 09/462,846

**CLEAN VERSION OF REWRITTEN, ADDED, AND/OR CANCELLED CLAIMS
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.121 (c)(1)(i)**

Please cancel Claims 4, 5, 14, and 16-19.

Please replace the pending Claims with the following Claims having the same numbers:

1. (Twice Amended) A *Bacillus subtilis* having a mutation or deletion of part or all of the gene encoding cysteine protease-1 CP1, wherein said gene encodes the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, and said mutation or deletion results in the inactivation of the CP1 proteolytic activity.

6. (Twice Amended) The *Bacillus subtilis* of Claim 1, wherein said microorganism is capable of expressing a heterologous protein.

13. (Four Times Amended) A method for the production of a heterologous protein in a transformed *Bacillus subtilis* host cell comprising the steps of:
(a) obtaining a *Bacillus* host cell comprising a nucleic acid encoding said heterologous protein wherein said host cell contains a mutation or deletion in at least one of the genes encoding *B. subtilis* cysteine protease 1, wherein said at least one of the genes encoding cysteine protease 1 encodes the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2; and
(b) growing said *Bacillus* host cell under conditions suitable for the expression of said heterologous protein.

20. (Amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein said at least one of the genes encoding cysteine protease 1 comprises the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

U.S. Serial No. 09/462,846

Please add the following new Claims:

22. A *Bacillus subtilis* cysteine protease-1 encoded by a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1.

23. A *Bacillus subtilis* cysteine protease-1 set forth in an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:2.